



Follow the “3 C s” and be a **Think Blue Partner**

Storm water pollution is a problem that affects all of us. When it rains, water flows over our streets and yards, and carries pollutants into storm drains. Daily activities such as lawn over-irrigation or hosing down driveways also create excess water that flows into the storm drains. The storm drain system is **not** connected to the sewer treatment system. So, pollution in the streets and gutters flows untreated directly into our creeks, lakes, rivers and the ocean.

The Storm Water Department in the City of San Diego is responsible for maintaining more than 39,000 storm drain structures, over 900 miles of storm drain pipes and channels, and seeks to educate residents about pollution prevention through the Think Blue program. As a City resident, you can make a difference. By becoming a Think Blue Partner both on the job and in your community, you can help reduce pollution in our waterways. Teach your children and grandchildren about pollution prevention, and share your knowledge. Be aware of illegal discharges and report them.

Whether at home or at work, by adopting some simple pollution prevention habits called “Best Management Practices” (BMP’s), you can stop pollutants from entering our storm drain system.

- Use dry clean-up methods for spills and outdoor cleaning. Vacuum, sweep, and use rags or dry absorbents instead of hosing down.
- Rake, sweep-up, and place all debris (dust, litter, clippings, sediment, etc.) from your yard or near your property into a trash can.
- Properly label, store and dispose of hazardous wastes.
- Use a mop where water is needed.

To report an illegal discharge, call the Storm Water Hotline at (619) 235-1000.

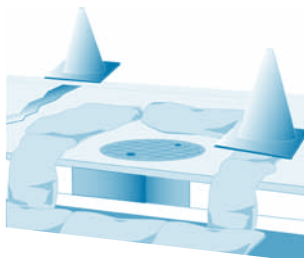


*By working together
we can make a difference.
A change for the better
begins with you.*

As you perform your daily activities at home or on the job, be proactive. It is easier to prevent pollution than to try and clean it up once it has occurred. When planning projects and activities, determine in advance if you will generate pollution. If you think there is a potential to create pollution, you can follow these general guidelines:

Utilize “The 3 C’s”

1 CONTAIN: Contain your work area by isolating debris and pollutants. Containment could include blocking and/or filtering water or debris to prevent any potential flow or discharge from leaving the area and entering the storm drain (ie. by using sandbags, gravel bags, berms, etc.).



2 CONTROL: Control mechanisms are processes and tools that allow you to manage your activity (work) area. A control mechanism can be as simple as sectioning off your activity into smaller units. Control also includes activities such as sweeping up debris, using a mop instead of a hose, or using a trigger nozzle instead of letting water run from a hose.



3 CAPTURE: Capture all potential debris or run off. Once you have completed a job, be sure to clean up the area and properly dispose of pollutants and debris (sweep up, vacuum, use a wet-vacuum, etc.).



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Under the City of San Diego's Municipal Code §43.0301, Storm Water Management and Discharge Control ordinance, it is illegal to discharge debris and materials into the storm water conveyance system. Failure to prevent illegal discharges may lead to fines up to \$1,000.

**To report storm drain pollution,
call the Think Blue hotline at (619) 235-1000.**

www.ThinkBlue.org